



# **BETKOSOL**

Better Knowledge for Better Solutions

Deliverable 8

## Submission of articles

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## Submission of articles

Work Package 4 - Deliverable 8

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The deliverables 8 contains the articles submitted to two international peer review journals which are based on the results of the previous working packages (1, 2 and 3) and the current one (4) of the BETKOSOL research.

#### Abstract Article 1

*The protection of the EU financial interest: from concrete practices to theoretical recommendations*

Valerio Bontempi, Eva Kiel (formerly Rulands), Alessandro Nato, Maciej Serowaniec, Elisabetta Tati

From 1 September 2021 to 30 November 2021, the BETKOSOL Project team carried out online and face-to-face qualitative interviews with representatives of the EU and MS institutions at national, regional, and local levels in different countries, as well as with representatives of selected trade unions and employers' associations. For better knowledge and better solutions, the awareness of the protection of financial interests by relevant institutions has been a key issue running throughout the project. The article focuses on a comparison of the results of these qualitative interviews. The concluding remarks include some preliminary policy recommendations.

#### Abstract Article 2

*The Protection of the EU's Financial Interests and Pandemic Emergency Tools: an Analysis of the Control Mechanism between the EU and the Member States*

Valerio Bontempi and Alessandro Nato

The paper examines three case studies: RescEU, SURE, and EU support for SMEs. These case studies represent three relevant EU actions that responded to the first phase of the Covid-19 emergency in the sectors of health, work, and economic support for businesses. The main research question is: what kind of administrative controls are most effective in protecting the EU's financial interests in relation to emergency tools? To address this question, the paper will try to answer the following sub-research question: what kind of actions were financed with EU funds in these sectors? What kind of administrative checks were carried out regarding these EU emergency funds? Has there been any fraud in these areas? The paper looks at these issues from a multilevel perspective: starting from the EU framework it reaches national levels, especially Italy, Poland, Belgium, and Germany. In the conclusions, the paper seeks to understand how promptly the EU emergency actions were taken and whether the planned controls prevented fraud.

The articles were submitted to two international peer review journals.